

Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 OECD PARIS 19919

DEPT PASS LABOR FOR METCALF AND HEWITT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, OECD

SUBJECT: MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING,
JULY 9-11, 1975

REF: A) OECD PARIS 18114; B) MO/A(75)2

SUMMARY: MSAC AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT MSAC
MEET AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL TO DISCUSS EMPLOYMENT AND
MANPOWER POLICIES EARLY IN 1976. MSAC GAVE TENTATIVE
APPROVAL TO 1976 WORK PROGRAM AND ELECTED US DEL
METCALF (DOL) COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRMAN. END SUMMARY.

1. AGENDA ITEMS 1 AND 2:

AGENDA ADOPTED AND SUMMARY RECORD APPROVED WITH SLIGHT
MODIFICATIONS.

2. AGENDA ITEM 4: PROGRESS REPORT MO(75)18

MSA DIRECTORATE HEAD GASS MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:
OECD'S INCREASING CONCERN WITH ITS RELATIONS WITH DE-
VELOPING COUNTRIES IS A "SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT"

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WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING REVIEWED BY AN AD HOC HIGH

LEVEL GROUP. ENDORSEMENT BY THE STOCKHOLM EDUCATION MINISTERS' CONFERENCE OF "BROAD CONCEPT OF RECURRENT EDUCATION" HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EDUCATION AND WORK. MSAC MAY THEREFORE WISH TO CONSIDER JOINT UNDERTAKINGS WITH EDUCATION COMMITTEE IN SUCH AREAS AS YOUTH, WOMEN AND DISADVANTAGED WORKERS, AND COORDINATE WORK ON INCOME TRANSFER AND INCOME DISTRIBUTION WITH OTHER PARTS OF ORGANIZATION (E.G. FISCAL AFFAIRS AND WP2 OF EPC) IN THE EVENT THE COUNCIL DECIDES ON GROWTH STUDY (ON JULY 15 COUNCIL DECIDED TO INITIATE REVIEW OF NON-INFLATIONARY ECONOMIC GROWTH). MSAC & WP ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS WILL PLAY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN DEVELOPING MNE CODE. CERI GOVERNING BOARD IS DIVIDED AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE IS BASICALLY OPPOSED TO CONCEPT OF SOCIAL RESEARCH CENTER; BOTH FEEL THAT SUCH A CENTER WOULD DRAIN RESOURCES AWAY FROM EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES. MSAC, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED SOME INTEREST IN PROPOSAL, AND SECGEN VAN LENNEP WILL "REFLECT ON ISSUE" AND MAKE PROPOSAL TO COUNCIL IN SEPTEMBER.

3. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS WERE MADE IN RESPONSE TO PRESENTATION BY GASS: GERMANY SUGGESTED THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS WP SHOULD ACCELERATE ITS WORK ON MNES. SPAIN OBSERVED THAT IMMIGRATION, UNEMPLOYMENT AND INCOME DISTRIBUTION WERE KEY ISSUES; THAT MNES WITHIN MSAC CONTEXT WERE UNIMPORTANT AND A REGULATORY CODE COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. US, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN AGREED THAT DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH AND INCOME WERE MAJOR COMMITTEE CONCERNS. US DEL OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT SECRETARIAT PAPER MO(75)18 OVERSTATED THIS CONCERN. US DEL FURTHER NOTED MSAC ONLY AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN FEASIBILITY STUDY OF AN EDUCATION AND SOCIAL RESEARCH CENTER. UK DEL SAID WP ON ROLE OF WOMEN APPEARS TO BE "PARALLEL ORGANIZATION" AND VOICED OPPOSITION TO GRANTING IT PERMANENT STATUS THAT WOULD "CREATE A MONSTER WE CAN NOT CONTROL". HE CONCLUDED THAT WOMEN'S CONCERNS COULD BE TREATED ADEQUATELY BY OTHER OECD BODIES. US DEL DISAGREED WITH UK CONCLUSIONS, BUT SUGGESTED THAT WP SHOULD REVIEW APPROPRIATENESS OF ITS OBJECTIVES

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AND MODUS OPERANDI. THE CHAIR (FALCHI) AGREED WITH UK CONTENTION THAT WP ON WOMEN OVERLAPS WITH WORK IN OTHER PARTS OF OECD, AND THAT FRAGMENTATION RESULTING FROM THE CREATION OF "SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES" FOR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SHOULD BE AVOIDED. GASS SAID WP WILL PRODUCE A REPORT IN 1976 WHEN MANDATE EXPIRES; AFTER WHICH MSAC AND COUNCIL WILL DECIDE ON FUTURE STATUS OF WP.

4. AGENDA ITEM 5: TRENDS AND INNOVATIONS

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US DEL DISTRIBUTED REPORT ON RECENT LEGISLATION RE
PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION; RELATED GREAT INTEREST OF US AUTHORITIES
IN THE SUBJECT, AND INVITED DELEGATIONS TO SUBMIT
WRITTEN REPORTS. PORTUGUESE DEL MADE INTRIGUING OBSER-
VATION THAT "WRITTEN DOCUMENTS CARRY TOO MUCH RESPONSI-
BILITY". HOWEVER, AS VIRTUALLY ALL DELEGATIONS
FAVORED WRITTEN REPORTS, SECRETARIAT AGREED TO PREPARE
A STANDARDIZED FORMAT AS WELL AS A SYNTHESIS OF MEMBER
COUNTRY SUBMISSIONS. IN ADDITION TO WRITTEN REPORTS,
DELEGATIONS WILL BE INVITED TO GIVE BRIEF ORAL PRE-
SENTATION ON TRENDS AND INNOVATIONS.

5. AGENDA ITEM 6: POSSIBLE MINISTERIAL

MSAC AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT MSAC MEET
AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL EARLY IN 1976 TO DISCUSS ANTI-

INFLATIONARY EMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER POLICIES, AND
ENDORSE A RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING SAME. COUNCIL WILL
PROBABLY DECIDE ISSUE IN SEPTEMBER. MSAC ACCEPTED
US DEL'S DRAFT SUGGESTIONS FOR POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS
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FOR DISCUSSION OF ACTIVE MANPOWER POLICY, AND SUGGEST-
IONS TO UPDATE 1964 RECOMMENDATION ON ACTIVE MANPOWER
POLICY AS BASIS FOR PREPARATORY WORK BY SECRETARIAT
AND AD HOC WP. (SEE REF A FOR FULL DISCUSSION.)

6. AGENDA ITEM 7: DRAFT 1976 WORK PROGRAM

MANY DELEGATES STATED THAT VARIOUS PROJECTS SHOULD BE
ASSIGNED PRIORITIES. GASS COUNTERED SKILLFULLY THAT
AS PRIORITIES HAVE BUDGETING IMPLICATIONS, BOTH
MSAC AND SECRETARIAT CAN BENEFIT BY MORE FLEXIBLE AR-
RANGEMENTS; I.E., NO PRIORITIES. HE ALLOWED, HOWEVER,
THAT SECRETARIAT CAN SHIFT RESOURCES TO RESPOND TO
CHANGES IN PRIORITIES MSAC MAY SUBSEQUENTLY DECIDE.
US DEL ARTICULATED US PRIORITY CONCERNS WITH EMPLOYMENT
STATISTICS (INCLUDING POSSIBLE REDEFINITION OF FULL
EMPLOYMENT CONCEPT AND "UNEMPLOYMENT") AND ROLE OF
WOMEN. HE ALSO NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF MNE STUDY,
AND ADVISED AGAINST PREJUDGING ISSUE. PROGRAM
PROPOSALS MOST ARDENTLY DEBATED WERE IMMIGRATION, ROLE
OF WOMEN AND MNES (SPANISH, AUSTRALIAN AND SWISS DELS
WERE THE MORE CAUTIOUS ABOUT MNES WHILE GERMAN AND UK
DELS WERE THE MORE HAWKISH). WHILE MOST DELEGATIONS
ASSIGNED ROLE OF WOMEN A HIGH PRIORITY, AUSTRALIAN,
N. ZEALAND AND UK DELS WERE SKEPTICAL. IN CONCLUSION
MSAC ENDORSED DRAFT GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT; APPROVED
LIST OF PROJECTS IN MO(75)19, SUBJECT TO MODIFICATIONS
SUGGESTED AND PRIORITIES EXPRESSED BY DELEGATIONS.

7. AGENDA ITEM 8: FUTURE WORK ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

MSAC AGREED THAT WP SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON POLICY ISSUES;
FOCUS ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ASPECTS OF WAGE DETERMI-
NATION; AND REVIEW INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ELEMENTS OF
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY FOR INPUT TO PROPOSED MINISTERIAL.

8. AGENDA ITEM 9 - EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

JACQUES DELORS OF SECGEN'S EXPERTS GROUP SAID MAJOR
ELEMENTS IN CONSIDERING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EDUCATION

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AND EMPLOYMENT WERE: (A) DIFFICULT OPERATION OF THE LABOR MARKET; (B) DISSATISFACTION WITH THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM; (C) NEW ASPIRATIONS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS WORKING LIFE AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATION. HE NOTED THAT INCREASED CONCERN MUST BE DEVOTED TO JOB SATISFACTION, FLEXIBILITY OF WORKING LIFE, RECURRENT EDUCATION AND THE PROBLEMS OF EQUALIZING EDUCATIONAL AND WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN, YOUTH' AND DISADVANTAGED WORKERS. MOST DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT WHILE PAPER WAS INTERESTING AND PROVOCATIVE, IT TENDED TO BE UTOPIAN AND UNREALISTIC IN NOT CONFRONTING THE ENORMOUS FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF ITS PROPOSALS. SECRETARIAT AGREED TO DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR FUTURE WORK.

9. AGENDA ITEM 10: ENTRY OF YOUNG PEOPLE INTO WORKING LIFE

SECRETARIAT SAID THAT MSAC WAS NOT BEING ASKED TO

ENDORSE REPORT'S CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, BUT
THAT SECRETARIAT WOULD PREPARE NEW DRAFT AFTER CONSULT-
ING WITH EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

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10 OTHER BUSINESS

A. ELECTIONS: US DEL METCALF TOGETHER WITH T. O'CARROLL
(IRELAND) AND J.P. BONNY (SWITZERLAND) WERE ELECTED
COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRMEN.

B. MEETING SCHEDULE: SECRETARIAT HAS PROPOSED FOLLOW-
ING MEETING SCHEDULE: WP ON EMPLOYMENT SECURITY,
OCT. 13-14; WP ON MINISTERIAL, NOV. 13-14;
MSAC, DEC. 3-5.
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